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Economic and environmental questions: science and technology for development

Tunisia*, Switzerland* and Japan: draft resolution

World Summit on the Information Society

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 56/183 of 21 December 2001 and 57/238 of 20 December 2002, related to the launching of the preparatory process of the World Summit on the Information Society, which will be held in two phases, in Geneva, from 10 to 12 December 2003, and in Tunis, from 16 to 18 November 2005,

Welcoming the progress achieved in the preparatory process of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Taking note of the contribution of the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force to the preparatory process of the Summit,

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* In accordance with rule 72 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

Encouraging all countries to continue to support the preparatory process,

Encouraging civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to further contribute to the preparations for the Summit,

Reaffirming the urgent need to harness the potential of knowledge and technology for promoting the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration[1] and to find effective and innovative ways to put this potential at the service of development for all,

Reaffirming also the pivotal role of the United Nations system in promoting development, in particular with regard to access to and transfer of technology, especially information and communication technologies and services, inter alia, through partnerships with all relevant stakeholders,

Reaffirming further the need to harness synergies and to create cooperation among the various information and communication technologies initiatives, at both the regional and global levels, currently being undertaken or planned to promote and foster the potential of information and communication technologies for development by other international organizations and civil society,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union on the ongoing preparatory process for the World Summit on the Information Society;[2]

2. *Takes note also* of the results of the first two meetings of the intergovernmental Preparatory Committee, held in Geneva from 1 to 5 July 2002 and from 17 to 28 February 2003;

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[1] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[2] See A/58/74-E/2003/58.

3. *Welcomes* the holding of the regional preparatory conferences in Bamako, from 25 to 30 May 2002, in Bucharest, from 7 to 9 November 2002, in Tokyo, from 13 to 15 January 2003, in Baváro, Dominican Republic, from 29 to 31 January 2003, in Beirut, from 4 to 6 February 2003, and in Cairo from 16 to 18 June 2003;

4. *Encourages* all relevant United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental organizations, including international and regional institutions, as well as the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force, to intensify their work in the preparatory process of the Summit;

5. *Invites* countries to be represented at the highest political level at the two phases of the Summit;

6. *Encourages* civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to contribute further to and actively participate in the intergovernmental preparatory process of the Summit, and in the Summit itself, according to the modalities of participation established by the Preparatory Committee;

7. *Requests* the International Telecommunication Union, in the context of its role in the preparatory process for the Summit, in close cooperation with the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat and other information offices of the United Nations system, to intensify its public information campaign to raise global awareness of the Summit, within existing resources and through voluntary contributions;

8. *Invites* the international community to continue providing extrabudgetary resources, in particular through voluntary contributions, to the special trust fund established by the International Telecommunication Union to support the preparations for and the holding of the two phases of the Summit and to facilitate the effective participation of representatives of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in the third meeting of the intergovernmental Preparatory Committee, which is to be held in Geneva from 15 to 26 September 2003, as well as in future meetings of the Preparatory Committee and in the two phases of the Summit.

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